

## Press Release



### IRELAND'S PREMIER PIANO TRIO PERFORM WORKS BY SOUTH AMERICAN COMPOSERS WITH POETRY NARRATION OF CHILEAN FEMALE NOBEL LAUREATE – GABRIELA MISTRAL

**TITLE:** "Pride and Passion: Vistas of South America"

**ARTISTS:** Degani Piano Trio, featuring Rachel Quinn (piano), Alan Smale (violin), Annette Cleary (cello) with special guest artist Donna Anita Nikolaisen (narrator)

**PROGRAMME:** Music by Piazzolla/Ginastera/ Nazareth and Poetry by Gabriela Mistral

**CONCERT SERIES:** Sunday@noon supported by Dublin City Council

**VENUE:** Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland, 21st March

**WATCH ON LIVESTREAM** at [Hugh Lane Gallery](#) YouTube: [Hugh Lane Gallery](#) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 12.00 Noon (Ireland) – 8:00 hrs. New York – 9:00 hrs. Chile

### "Pride and Passion: Vistas of South America"

Ireland's premiere piano trio, the [Degani Piano Trio](#) perform a programme of Piazzolla's 'Four Seasons of Buenos Aires' Piano Trio and Oblivion and other works for solo piano performed by Rachel Quinn by South American composers Ginastera and Nazareth. 2021 is the Centenary of Astor Piazzolla. It will be a unique celebration of words and music of South America. The music is set alongside readings of the Nobel Laureate poet Gabriela Mistral of Chile read by [Donna Anita Nikolaisen](#), actor. This concert follows on from their last acclaimed curated 'Words and Music: Beethoven Piano Trio Series' in the NCH's Chamber Music Series 2020. Lyric FM recently broadcast a complete 'Lyric Concert Programme' from these concerts which is now featured in the European Broadcast Union's database of programmes available to 56 member countries. Other new releases include a much-anticipated album of Piazzolla's Piano Trio works including the Four Seasons of Buenos Aires Trio along with Revolutionario, Muerte del Angel and Oblivion.

See [www.rachelquinn.bandcamp.com](http://www.rachelquinn.bandcamp.com) and [www.deganipianotrio.bandcamp.com](http://www.deganipianotrio.bandcamp.com) for links

The **Degani Piano Trio** is an established Irish Piano Trio of distinguished and award winning musicians Alan Smale on violin, Rachel Quinn on piano and Annette Cleary on cello. They have recorded albums in recent years of repertoire including Haydn, Dvorak, Chopin, Brahms and Piazzolla.

They are renowned for their insightful and joyful interpretations of the classic trio repertoire and frequently premiere Piano Trio works by Irish contemporary composers such as John Buckley, Colman Pearce and others especially written for the Degani Piano Trio. The trio was

formed in 2015, and has performed regularly at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, the Curtis Auditorium CIT, Con Brio Festival, Calary Festival, Crescent Contemporary Music Festival, Whale Theatre and at other venues around Ireland.

**Gabriela Mistral** is known as an inspirational poet, a humanitarian and Nobel prizewinner from Chile, the beautiful 'land on the edge of the world'. Her ravishing lyrics, the remorseless candor of her love poems express inordinate passions and evoke the Chilean high peaks, valleys, springs and bleak absolute landscape of Patagonia. **Gabriela Mistral** was born on April 7, 1889 in the northern Chilean city of Vicuña. She was a Chilean educator, poet, diplomat, feminist and was the First Latin American person to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945. Gabriela was born and raised in a poor area of northern Chile where from an early age, she was in close contact with those in need. She taught at schools throughout the country and developed a deep love and commitment to the poor-especially towards the children of her beloved Chile. Her literary successes gave her international recognition. When she was asked how she felt at being awarded the Nobel Prize of Literature, she responded; "**The new world has been honored through me. Therefore, my victory is not mine. It is America's**".

**Donna Anita Nikolaisen** is an Irish-Caribbean actor. Donna is best known for her role as Zambian nurse Ama Chisenga on RTE's 'Fair City'. Stage highlights include 'No Irish No Blacks No Dogs' at The New Theatre, 'Jane Eyre' at The Gate and 'The Bacchae of Baghdad' at The Abbey. Recent screen roles include 'Lucy Doyle' in TV Drama 'The South Westerlies' (2020), 'Louisa Short' in TV Drama 'Blood' (2020) and 'Grace Ture' in Feature Film 'Sweetness in the Belly' (2019). Donna won Best Supporting Actor for her role in the award-winning short 'QED' at the 2018 Underground Cinema Festival. A successful voice over artist, Donna narrated the audio book for Donal Ryan's 'Strange Flowers'. She also narrated the BBC/TV3 documentary 'Ireland's Refugee Hotel' and 'The Story of Water' for Virgin Media. In 2019 Donna released her debut album 'LORE'.

**Astor Piazzolla's** Four Seasons of Buenos Aires is a set of four tango compositions originally conceived as four separate works. The pieces were scored for Piazzolla's quintet of violin (viola) piano, electric guitar, double bass and bandoneon and he frequently performed them as a set. Piazzolla was an Argentinian tango composer and virtuoso bandoneon player and arranger. His work revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style of Nuevo Tango.

**Alberto Ginastera** composed his Argentinian Dances Op.2 in 1937. The 'Danza del Viejo Boyero' features bitonality while the 'Dance de la Moza Donosa' has harmonisations based on intervals of fifth and fourths giving the music a feeling of expansiveness reflecting the vast landscape of the Argentinian Pampas.

**Ernesto Nazareth** was a most popular composer of Brazilian tango music. Nazareth was one of the first to blend polka and maxixe with the habanera resulting in a new dance rhythm called the Brazilian Tango. 'Odeon' is named after one of the most important cinemas of Rio de Janeiro of South America in which he provided music before the film began. Heitor Villa-Lobos, composer and cellist was also a member of the theatre orchestra there at that time.

[www.deganitrio.com](http://www.deganitrio.com)

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With the collaboration of the **Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.** and the **Embassy of Chile in Ireland**, and with kind permission of University of New Mexico Press.



*Left: Degani Piano Trio: Rachel Quinn, Alan Smale, Annette Cleary*  
*Right: Donna Anita Nikolaisen*

**Editors Notes: Programme Details:**

**Four Seasons of Buenos Aires Piano Trio- Astor Piazzolla**

‘The Rose’ followed by **‘Summer’**  
‘Pinewoods’ followed by **Autumn**  
‘The Wind’ followed by **Winter**  
‘Fire’ followed by **Spring**

‘Song of those who seek to forget’ followed by **‘Danza de la Moza Donosa’** by **Alberto Ginastera**

‘The Ones not Dancing’ followed by **‘Danza del Viejo Boyero’** by **Alberto Ginastera**, and **‘Odeon’** by **Ernesto Nazareth**

‘Nightfall’ followed by **‘Oblivion’** by **Astor Piazzolla**.

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